UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5

77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590



DATE:

June 16, 1994

SUBJECT:

International Harvester Site, Chicago IL REPLYTO THE ATTENTION OF:

FROM:

Ed Hanlon, OH/MN Remedial Response Branch, OSF,

TO:

Steve Peterson, Technical Support Section, OSF

CC:

Paul Steadman, Emergency Removal Section

John Breslin, ORC

Steve Ostradka, Technical Support Section, OSF

This is a request to receive a quick-turnaround set of historical aerial photos of the International Harvester (IH) Site located in south Chicago IL (located on the south side of 120th Street in the 1000 west block). Since there are significant potential risks associated with exposure to soils at the site, since OSF is preparing to issue an order to the PRPs within three weeks, and since evidence of historical spills which would be provided by historical aerial photos may be needed prior to issuing this order, we request these historical photos as soon as possible. This memorandum also requests an analysis if possible assessing whether there is any evidence of any surface spills or other forms of environmental releases. However, if the analysis for this information would take several weeks to receive, and the photos without analysis would be available within a week, we request that a set of the photos be provided separately and a followup analysis report be sent later as soon as it is available.

Specifically, historical aerial photos from the early 1900's through the present is requested. Our primary need is to gather photos, and any evidence of spills, prior to 1982, but more recent photos would also be of interest.

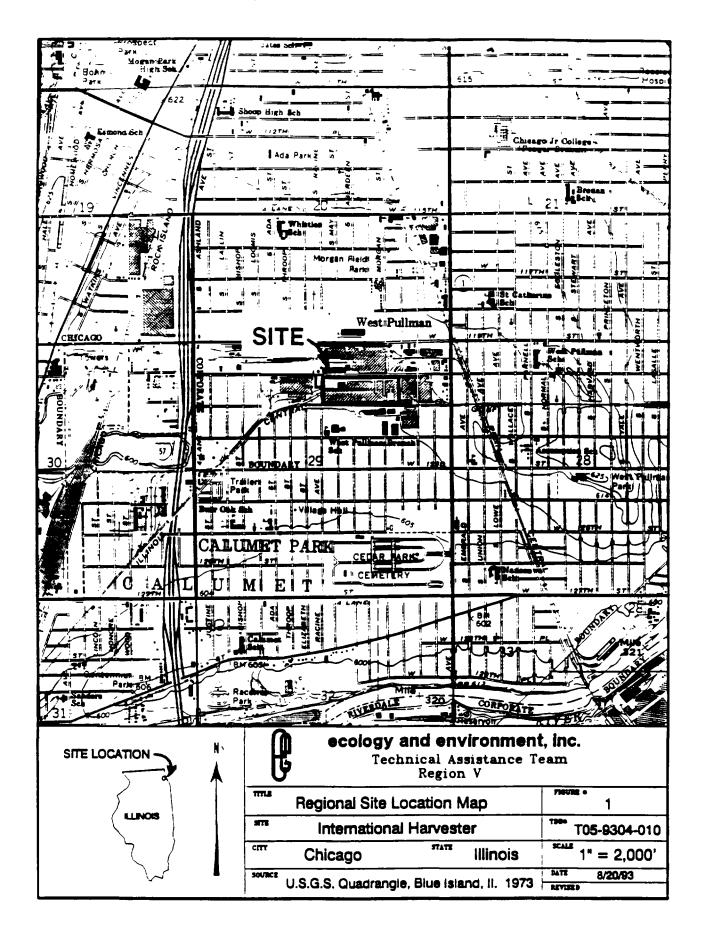
The IH Site occupies an approximate 21 acre tract of land which was formerly operated as a heavy machine industrial manufacturing facility during the years 1903 through 1983; since 1983 a new owner demolished and moved buildings and debris at the The chief constituents of the wastes disposed and remaining on the IH Site include insulation materials containing hazardous levels of asbestos, various sludges and solvents, acids, and high concentrations (over 1000 ppm) of polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). These materials originated as a result of the company's major manufacturing operations involving metal forging, punching, heat treating, and machining as well as painting, woodworking, and on-site power generation for a period of 81 years. Other materials deposited included demolition and construction debris. Since the site is located in a moderately

high population area of Chicago, with approximately 2,700 people living within one-quarter mile of the Site, and since no environmental or access controls are in place or have been installed to prevent contamination of adjacent communities and locations from airborne migration and dispersal of hazardous particulates and dusts from the Site, an acute health risk appears to exist.

Attachment 1 to this memo is a copy of the section of the USGS "Blue Island IL" Quad which depicts the site boundaries (prepared by E&E, EPA's FIT Contractor). Attachment 2 is a map of the current features of the site, prepared also by E&E.

Thank you for your anticipated assistance with this request. Please contact me at x-9228, Paul Steadman at x3-7615, or John Breslin at x6-7165, if you need to discuss the overall priority and needs of this request, need any additional information, or have any questions.

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Technet 2 WEST SCREW MACHINE PARTS BUILDING INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER SITE PLANT CHEMICAL LABORATORY RECEIVING AND STORAGE COOLER AND HYDRAULIC STORAGE BUILDIN DEMOLISHED THREADING WAREHOUSE LINES REPRESENT LOCATIONS OF FORMER BUILDINGS SHIPPING-PACKING & NUT AND BOLT BALL BEARINGS BUILDING NUT AND BOLT HEADING DEPARTMEN **AS-1** RAILROAD TRACKS METRA STATION RESIDENCES

